

# How to Catch a MONSTER



From the New York Times  
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# How to Catch a **MONSTER**

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Andy Elkerton

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School is done, I'm heading home.

It was such an awesome day!

I got the role of **NINJA MASTER**  
in this year's school play!













So now I'm feeling brave and strong,  
and full of courage, too!

But if I'm going to be a **HERO**,  
then there's one thing left to do!





See, there's a **MONSTER** in my closet,  
with claws and teeth and hair.  
And tonight, I'm going to scare him!



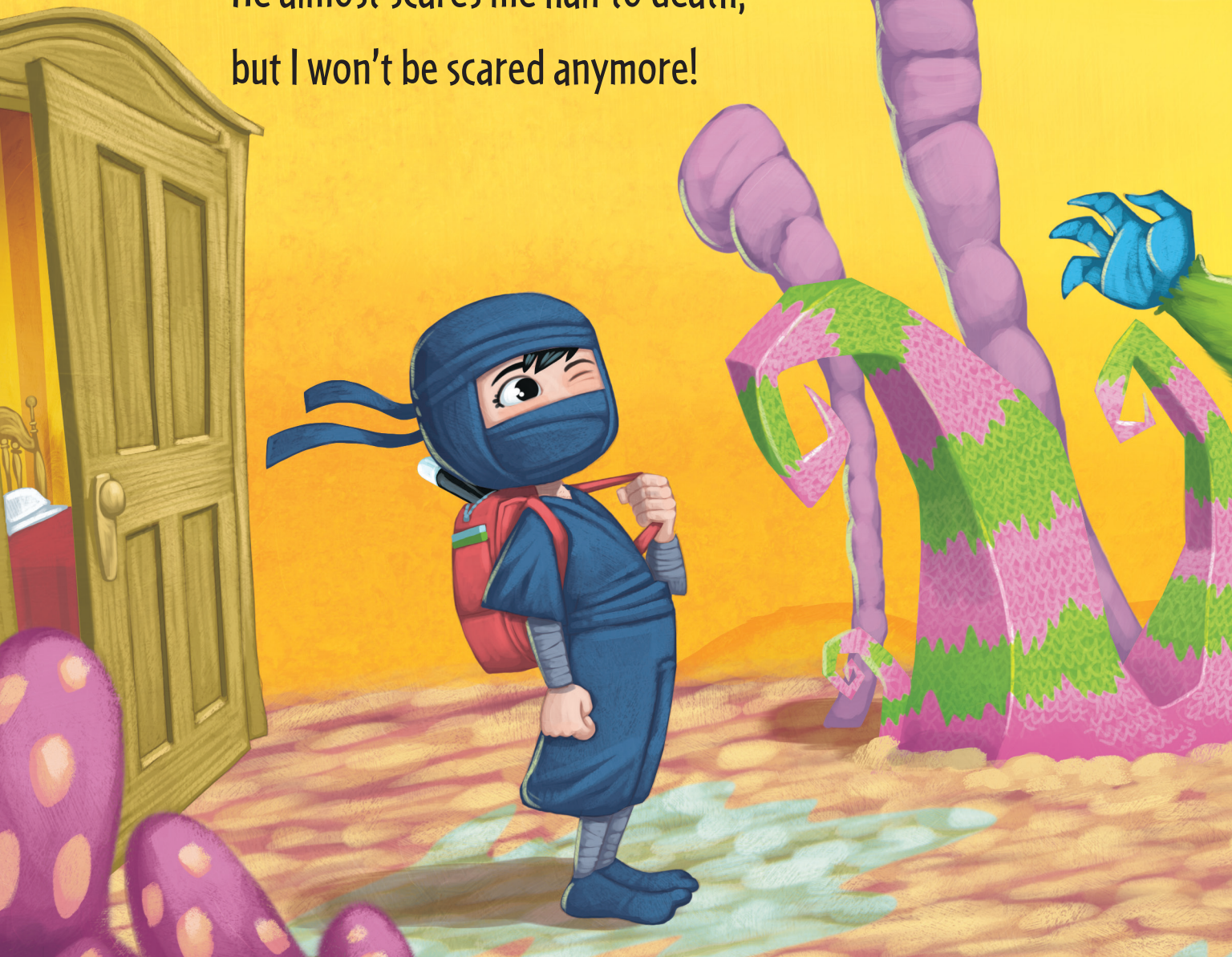




He lives just right through there...



I spot my monster right away.  
He's practicing his **ROAR**.  
He almost scares me half to death,  
but I won't be scared anymore!









I reach into my **bag of tricks**  
and pull out my first trap.  
I'll catch my monster right away.  
It'll be a snap!









Okay, he's stronger than I thought.

But I'm not finished yet.

I'll catch him in my **SUPER-STICKY**  
ninja-nabbing net!









Aack! He just **ESCAPED** again!

But my next trap will not miss.

I'll give him every trick I've got.

He won't get out of this!













I stare at him, and he stares back.

His monster eyes look **sad**.

"I'm sorry, friend. I really am.

Oh, please, just don't be mad."





"I never meant to scare you.

I did it by mistake.

It's hard to play when you're asleep.

I want you **wide awake!**"









So then I stop my **NINJA BOT**,  
and he pulls the bars apart.  
I shake his hand, and then he smiles...







AND RIPS  
A MASSIVE  
**FART!**



"That's how we say hello, my friend.

We do it all the time!

Just take a whiff! You'll see it smells

like **strawberries** and **lime**."















And then he takes me to his house,  
which seems a little weird.

He lets me meet his mom and dad.

Is this the **creature** that I feared?





We play for hours, and have such fun,  
and eat **Volcano Pie!**

And when he throws me in the air,  
he throws me really high!













Then, at last, it's time for bed.

He helps me brush my teeth.

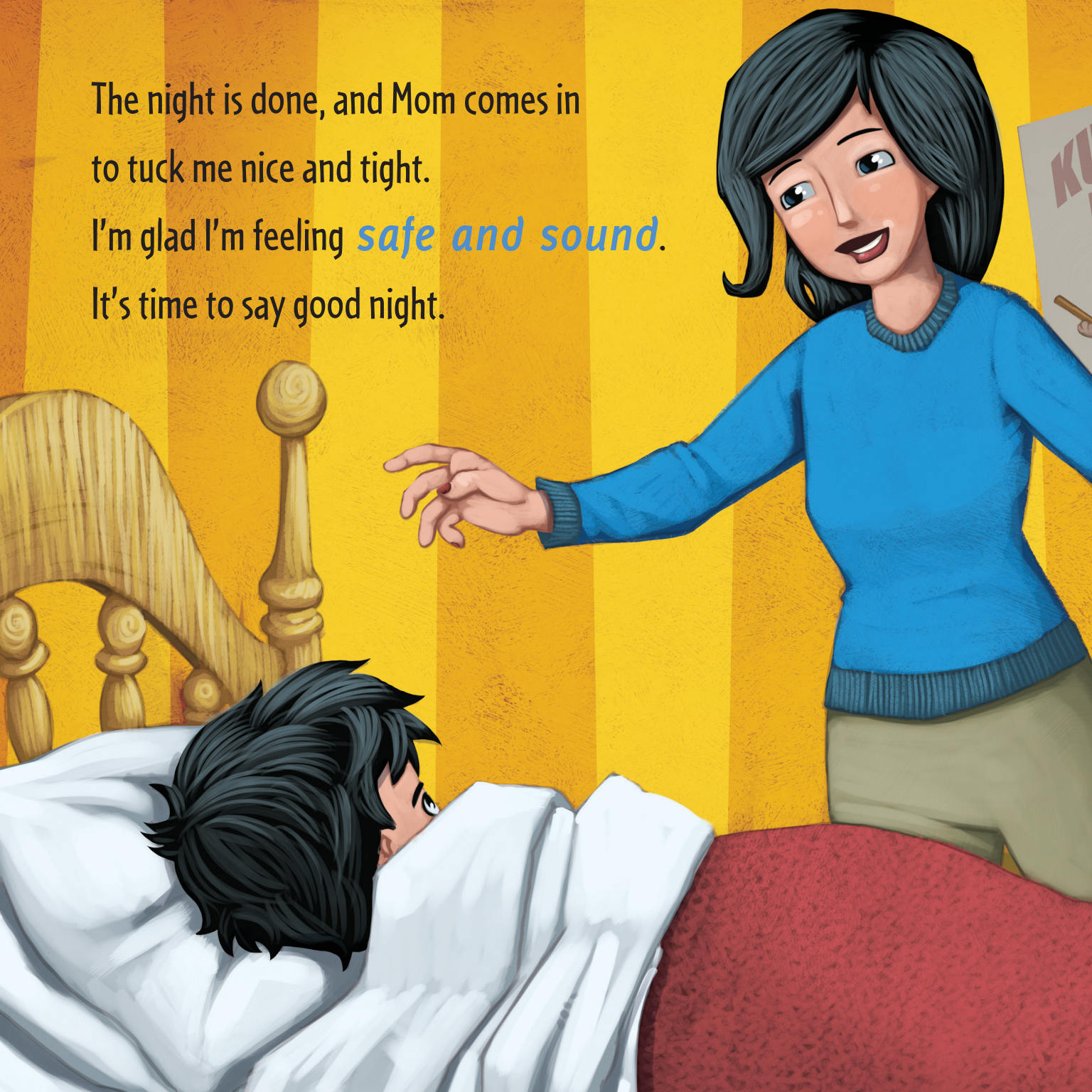
But he squeezes all my **toothpaste** out...

he's strong beyond belief!





The night is done, and Mom comes in  
to tuck me nice and tight.  
I'm glad I'm feeling *safe and sound*.  
It's time to say good night.







**GOOD NIGHT!**





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And tonight, **I'M GOING TO SCARE HIM!**  
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